



Hello Friends,

I am honored to have been selected by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) as a delegate to the Philippines for a two week political study program beginning August 3, 2007. I will join nine other young political leaders from across the United States to study the Philippines' political system, engage in dialogue on international issues, and forge professional relationships.

This will be a chance to better understand the current political and social dynamics there, and help people there better understand the United States. With a significant Filipino population in the 30th Assembly District, this is a will be an invaluable experience to promote mutual understanding and respect for each others' political cultures.

I will join other delegates in Washington, DC for briefings by the U.S. Department of State and the Filipino Embassy before flying to Manila. The program will provide us opportunities to travel within the country and interact with rising local and national leaders, business communities, and civic groups.

Since 1966, the American Council of Young Political Leaders has conducted bilateral exchanges in order to promote awareness and understanding of the common problems, opportunities, and challenges that face the international community. Over 90 nations in Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Pacific Rim have participated in exchange programs with ACYPL. ACYPL receives partial funding from the U.S. Department of State and has been endorsed as an important source of education on key foreign policy issues for rising American and foreign political leaders.

ACYPL delegates are chosen from a competitive, bi-partisan field of candidates who are between the ages of 25 and 40 and have exhibited strong leadership during their careers in public or private service. Former ACYPL participants include current members of the U.S. Congress, governors, ambassadors, cabinet secretaries, and foreign prime ministers. For more additional information, visit www.acypl.org.

Look for the next edition of the Parra Notes August 31...

.....

What's Happening in Sacramento

After lengthy discussions, negotiations, and meetings, the **Assembly passed a State Budget on July 20**. The budget approved by the Assembly passed with bi-partisan support. Among other things, the Assembly budget:

- Creates a \$3.4 billion dollar reserve, 62% larger than the Governor's proposed May Revision
- Repays \$2.5 billion in bond obligations, \$1 billion more than required
- Preserves the Williamson Act
- Rejects cuts to CalWORKS
- Fully funds K-12 education

The Senate promptly took up the budget, but could not muster the two-thirds vote needed to send it to the Governor for signature. Although the budget enjoyed bi-partisan support in the Assembly, the Senate split along party lines, with the Democrats supporting the budget, and zero Republicans voting in favor.

Sadly, the first official death related to **West Nile virus (WNV)** occurred this month in Kern County. West Nile virus activity has now been detected in 30 of California's 58 counties. The State Department of Public Health is urging people to **take preventive steps** including avoiding mosquito bites, mosquito-proofing your home, and helping out our community. For additional information, go to: www.westnile.ca.gov/wnv_faqs_basics.php?id=23

My Legislative Highlights

Governor Schwarzenegger has signed AB 1255. I introduced AB 1255 at the request of **Fresno County and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)** to provide statutory authority for implementing the negotiated agreement the two parties reached for retirement benefits for newly hired general members. The bill moved easily through the State Legislature with bi-partisan support.

During the last legislative session, I was successful in passing **AB 2586**, which allows for Veterans who are diagnosed with **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)** to be diverted from prison to treatment under certain conditions. The bill was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, and is now available to the Veteran community as a means of giving our returning servicemen and women a second chance.

The incarceration of veterans who have been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder has proven detrimental to their recovery. Incarceration amplifies the negative attitudes and feelings that stem from this disorder, and adversely affects the veteran's ability to integrate back into society upon returning from a combat theatre. This bill ensures that our veterans are given the opportunity to be treated, as opposed to incarcerated, for a health condition that is a direct result of their service in a combat theater.

Defendants across the state are utilizing this new Code Section in their defense. If you or someone you know is afflicted with PTSD due to prior combat service, and is currently facing incarceration, I would encourage you to make them aware of this new option. If you would like more information regarding this bill or its application in the courts, **please contact Brandon Sanders** of my Sacramento Office at **916-319-2779**.

Constituents Visit Sacramento

Recently, the State Department of Housing and Community Development awarded funds to numerous cities and counties as part of the **Workforce Housing (WHF) Reward Program**. The WHF Program is an innovative State program designed to increase the supply of affordable housing to the workforce and low-income households by rewarding local governments who have approved new housing production in their communities and complied with State housing element law. **Those awardees from the 30th Assembly District are: Avenal, Bakersfield, Delano, Hanford, Fresno County, and Tulare County!**

The Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded **Emergency Housing and Assistance Program Capital Development (EHAPCD) deferred loans**. These funds are an important tool in providing emergency shelter and transitional and permanent housing for homeless individuals and families. **Congratulations to Champions Recovery Alternative Programs in Hanford** for receiving an EHAPCD award.

I am proud to announce that a number of municipalities in the 30th Assembly District received **funding under the CalHome Program** from the Department of Housing and Community Development. **Avenal, Corcoran, Delano, Hanford, Huron, and Kings County** were awarded funds to help meet the housing needs of California's lower income families.

In the District

Once the Assembly signed the budget, I was able to return to the District and spend quality time meeting with many of the fine people and organizations throughout the **30th Assembly District**. My calendar included these visits:

In **Fresno County**, I attended a roundtable discussion with **Coalinga Leadership** at **West Hills Community College** and joined the **California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley** for a dinner and forum that examined an integrated water plan and achieving a sustainable Delta in the 21st Century.

In **Kern County**, I enjoyed meetings with the **Kern Economic Development Corporation** and the **City of Arvin's Police Chief and Mayor** to discuss the local business climate. I had the pleasure of joining **Richgrove** elected officials and school district leaders at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new gymnasium at Richgrove School, as well as attending a free vision/hearing screenings at an event hosted by the **McFarland Park and Recreation District** in conjunction with the **McFarland**

Lions Club. And I met with **labor leaders** to discuss the current health care proposal, AB 8, which is making its way through the State Legislature.

In **Kings County**, I enjoyed a round of bingo with some fantastic folks at the **Avenal Senior Center**. I held separate meetings with **Kings County's law enforcement community** and **Corcoran's City Manager** met with me to share some of their concerns, my methamphetamine legislation, and several positive programs they have in place. I also had the wonderful opportunity to sponsor a **home buying seminar**, along with **Renovo Communities**, for many of our terrific community "heroes" such as teachers, police officers, firefighters, and veterans. Hundreds of individuals came to **Hanford** for a free seminar to learn about opportunities to obtain the financing offered to these specific groups designed to help them achieve home ownership.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov

Bakersfield Office:

601 24th St.,
Suite A
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 334-3745
Fax: (661) 334-3796

Hanford Office:

321 N. Douty St.,
Suite B
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 585-7170
Fax: (559) 585-7175

Capitol Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2030
Fax: (916) 319-2130

Email: Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov
Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

If you wish to no longer receive email notifications please click the following link to [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)
If you wish to receive email updates in the future please click the following link to [SUBSCRIBE](#)